THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 15-30% of the questions in multiple sets are different. However, they are equated through question paper design.

The pattern of multiple sets of question papers was introduced in Delhi in 1992 with a view to overcoming malpractices, leakage and mass copying.

(d) There is no such proposal.

"Suspension of Sandalwood Export from Southern States"

*597. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of sandalwood from four states of Southern India has been suspended since 1994, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have since given permission to Tamil Nadu to export sandalwood, if so, the details thereof and the circumstances under such exports were allowed; and

(c) the quantity of sandalwood lying in depots of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and since when such stocks is lying, including the details of quantity damaged in storage, so far state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) As per Export-Import Policy, 1992-97, the item of sandalwood in any form, but excluding fully finished handierafts made out of sandalwood and machine finished sandalwood products, is included in the part I of the Negative List of Export. Prior to 1.4.1992, the export of sandalwood was also allowed in the form of chips, powder and flakes but was banned in form of logs. The ban on export of sandalwood even in form of chips, powder and flakes has been imposed to discourage chipping of logs for the purpose of export and thereby check tendency of illicit feelings.

(b) In view of the large accummulation of stocks of sandalwood, Government has given permission for export of 1500 MT of sandalwood chips, flakes and powder and 500 MT of sapwood powder during the year 1995-96. Export of another 1500 MT of sandalwood chips, flakes and powder is under consideration of the Government. In addition, earmarking of 300 MT of sandalwood of above classes for export by government owned corporations is also under consideration. The exports are subject to various conditions to avoid chipping of handicraft quality logs and prevent export of illegal stocks.

(c) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Production and consumption on wheat in the Country

*598. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat per annum in our country for the last three years;

(b) the consumption of wheat per annum for the last three years;

(c) the quantity of import of wheat per annum for the last three years; and

(d) the rates of the imported wheat during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) all India estimates of production of wheat during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are 65.77, 62.62 and 64.66 million tonnes respectively.